

## **DECREASING THE FEAR AND MAKING SECURE PUBLIC PLACES FOR WOMEN BY USING METHODS AND STRATEGIES OF URBAN DESIGN (THE CASE: DISTRICT SANGALAJ)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Fear is a familiar feeling that we have experienced it for many times in our lives. Actually, it generates from the lack of safety and security. The needing for safety and security begins from the lack of feeling danger, and if this need does not provided, other needs which are more important will not supply too. Therefore, supplying these too needs have been the major concern of knowledge of urban design. Generally, security has two main concrete and abstract dimensions. The abstract dimension refers to Social factors while concrete dimension refers to physical components. Components of personality as well has a significant effect in a perceived security. Among all of the variety of factors, a main factor which is gender is selected as main issue in this project. In this research the criteria for safe design was examined, and library and field studies, and questionnaires was carried out. The goal of this research was reaching to the factors in promoting security, decreasing the fear in urban public places, and creating a secure public places to reduce behavioral abnormalities and urban crimes by a suitable space design.

In order to reach to this goal, and on the basis of results in descriptive statistics and analysis of questionnaires, we have been reaching to strategies to enhance women's security (on the basis of the case in the district of Sangalaj in neighborhood of Tehran) that the most ones are: increasing the monitoring of space, increasing the sense of ownership, increasing the amount of reasonable activities in day and nights, maintenance and management of space, increasing the familiarity and reputation of the space, and etc. in order for reaching to the main goal for creating a secure space some strategies for each of them has been provided. Finally, due to the environmental and physical conditions, we reach to the design of insecure segments.

**KEYWORDS:** Fear, Security, Participatory Approach, Women, Urban Public Spaces

### **INTRODUCTION**

Individual and group differences (in terms of age, gender, etc.) have a big role in studies and different variables creating fear. Furthermore, because the vulnerable groups of society such as elders, women, children, and disabled have a less power of defending, will face with fear more than other groups of people in the society. Among all of these mentioned groups, women as half of the population dedicate a significant portion of the country to themselves, and their presence have a significant effect on the other group of people.

Lack of security in urban public spaces, limits the association of women in the society and in addition to mental damage of the person on the families, it will have a bad effect on all the member of society too. Besides, the economic

capacity of women in urban areas depends on their security. The economic activity of women has often been focused on informal economy or close to their home. They need some facilities for employment in urban and residential environments. Some of the urbanization criteria for securing a space, like criteria for designing a secure public space, does not depend on the gender, age, and etc. it can be applied for all of people. This criteria include: suitable lighting, the sense of being seen and being heard in public care, having access to help, adequate visibility, readability of the environment, maintenance, and the prevention of sabotage and vandalism, etc. but here, the priority for the research is reaching to some special criteria of security for women in urban spaces. So, they can have a more activity in the city. But, gender approach to the issue of security cannot be considered as discrimination and lining, because by making a secure spaces for women, children and men also can reach to security and peace. John Petersen, Commission President of Hoairou in Canada, in this regard, said: "feeling security is not only dedicated to women. If women feel secure, men will feel if too." Michaud also in this regard, said: "if women feel secure and go out at nights, will become the customers of theatres and cinemas or will be attracted to business institutions. So everyone is responsible for planning and designing for developing the security of women." Actually, Michaud discovered a relationship between security of women, successful, and prosperity of the business in the community. Rosewarne, 2005: p.76 .[1]. However, "It is important to evaluate women as people with multiple personality and identity."

As the research carried out by NACAVA in the year 1998, Women of all ages are afraid of different things in the urban environment. For example, adolescent girls afraid of travelling with public transports in the city. But, more elder women, do not experience these kind of feelings. 6: 1998 Bell, [2]. One of the effective elements for the security of women in the urban spaces is the process of city's globalization. Furthermore, after the social and civil justice, women as the citizens of an urban space should have, like men, security and peace and their presence in the city should not be limited because of insecurity which is created by weakness in the urbanization. It is clear that women themselves also should participate in creating a secure public space. Generally, four key dimension that affect the access and participation of women include: 1. The ability of secure physical activity, 2) the time and capacity of women's work, 3. social views especially men's views, 4. Expectation of women themselves. Brady, 2005: 66 [3] . so, in regards to what have been said, the approaches to this selected study is on the basis of people's participation and the direct opinions of women in planning for the development of security in public spaces.

In this research, the case of the study is the district of Samgalaj in Tehran. Because of establishment in the center of Tehran and near to its bazaar, this district has a large population and consequently a compressed texture and Also, due to the widespread use of passive warehouses and shops in the district (because of bazaars of Tehran) and low security of it (because of the groups of addicted and unemployed people living in this district) and also its suitability because of accumulating of people in it, this district has been selected. This research focuses on the importance of these urban spaces and tries to avoid behavioral abnormalities by urban designing. It also tries to reach to a secure public space. However, it should be mentioned that there exists different sort of factors in urban security. They include: Risks, invulnerability and a sense of security and each of the divides to some other subplots. Zhang Hanqing, 2005:3 [4].

In this research the question is that if by Increasing in the diversity and density of urban applications in public urban spaces the security of the space for women will increase or not? And in regards to the analytical basis of the research, how it is possible to develop the reasonable social behaviors in public spaces by suitable design of the space?

## Hypothesis

According to the studies, for reaching to the answers of the questions of the research, the following assumptions is presented.

It seems that there is a direct relationship between the development of the security and increasing the amount of density and diversity of urban spaces.

It seems that there is a direct relationship between the active and effective presence of women in the public spaces of the research and increasing the level of security of them.

## DEFINITIONS AND BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE DISCUSSION

### Dimensions of Security

Generally, there are two dimensions for the security. 1) the objective dimension which is evaluated by the environmental and behavioral factors of observed elements, 2) subjective dimension which is understood by the general feeling of security. Both of them can have an effect on each other, positive or negative effect. So, it is important to consider about these two dimensions to develop the general security 1998 : 297. [8].

Dimension of security refers to the feeling of a society about security. Actually, decreasing the number of unfavorable events will not essentially increase the relative sense of security. for example, for reducing the present problems in a park, its doors may be closed, or for the protection of the lives of citizens in a suit, a wall may be make in order to decrease the level of accessibility to it, or an alarmed system may be used in some places. Actually, in these cases by the help of reducing the opportunities or by the help of supporting tools the probability of the occurrence of an incident is prevented. However, this is a short-term solution and despite such efforts the security issue is still remained. The World Health Organization 1998: 299 [8].

### Effective Factors in the Sense of Security

Personal characteristics influence on the level of understanding of a person on security and the use of an urban area, for example Social status.

Personalities, roles (age, social class, familial background, being a student or a worker, etc.) and these issues have an effect on the comfort of these people and their understanding on the vulnerability of a place.

Generally, there are many factors influencing the react of people to the fear. However, some of these factors like gender, age, previous experience about crime, environment and geography, ethnicity and culture are more important.

Other variables include low-income groups and lower levels of education. But, by the study on the above groups, it becomes clear that there is no relationship between the fear of women, and the more elder women, and the amount of crime they have been faced to. . 222 Howard, 1999: [5].

### The Effect of Women's Fear of Crime in the City

As mentioned, fear of crime will change the behavior and moods in the urban spaces and these effects on the women and other social and economic vulnerable groups is more severe. These effects include:

- It limits their activity and especially after the dark will make them stay at home

- Reduces their social, economic, and cultural activities.
- Increases the dependability of women on men and by calling women weak and incapable people, strengthens a stereotypical view. In this process they will be deprived from economic and social activities like working late at nights, jobs with different shifts, presenting in evening classes, and etc. in this process, poor women are more likely to become the victim of fear and crime of that. Mtani, Lubuva, 2004:21 [6]

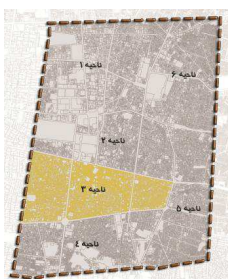
### **The Process of Globalization and its General Effect on the Security of Women in Big Cities**

Globalization, in one hand especially by development of technology, encourages the safe urban activity of women by features which have been widely established for electronic communication. Besides, globalization has been accompanied by decentralization measures. It also makes more transformation of power and more important activities of women in local governments. Andrew, 2006:14 [7]

## **THE CASE : THE DISTRICT OF SANGALAJ IN TEHRAN**

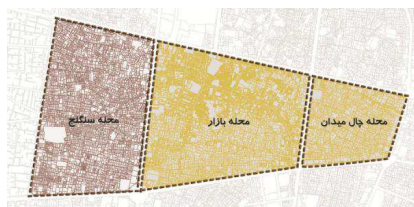
### **A Brief Presentation of the Project and its Location**

This project is a subset of the district 12 of Tehran municipality. Within the framework of urban developmental document, this district (region 12) is divided into six urban planning. In the physical divisions, Region 3 of this district has been made of three district of 11, 12, 13 and the location of the project was the region of 11. Its nominal identity has been created in the historical format of Sangalaj district and is established in the east of the space. The area of the district, selected for planning and design, was 30.8 hectares in which the most important street was Khayyam Street in the east of it. In other directions (north, west, south) available streets of the district influence on the definition of Sangalaj. (Pictures 1, 2, 3)



Source: Renovation of Tehran [9]

**Figure 1: District of 12 According to the Region 3 and the Position of Region 3 in it**



Source: Renovation of Tehran [9]

**Figure 2: Region 3 According to Districts and the Position of the District 12 in it**



Source: Renovation of Tehran [9]

Figuer 3: The District 11( Sangalaj) and its Intervened Position

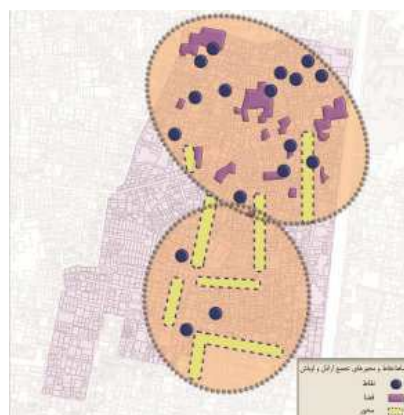
### Eneral Security Problems in the District

The studies indicates the socio-cultural problems in the district of Sangalaj. In one hand, the presence of worn-out physical textures, the presence of dilapidated or under construction houses, narrow, deadlock, and covered passages, and on the other hand the low population especially after the closure of the markets and because of the low public monitoring the probability of social problems will increase and eventually it will creates unsafe and dangerous spaces. Some socio-economic problems is prevailed so much that can be observed clearly in the district(addiction and street violence). According to the head of Tehran's Command Information Center, this district has lots of evil people, drug dealers, purse snatchers, thieves, and honor annoyers who lives in single rooms and houses.

According to studies about addiction and using drugs, the shortage in the number of Libraries and cultural centers, and presence of single workers and Afghans in single houses and dormitories is one of the big cultural problems. Addiction and the distribution of drugs, unsafety on the end of deadlocks avenues, and the houses under construction are some of the examples of this issue. Generally, the studies on the social issues of the district indicates the focus on social anomalies, such as buying and selling and using drugs.

### ANALYSIS

The picture 4 shows the zoning of insecure places in the district

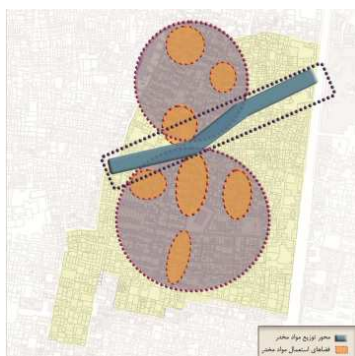


Source: Renovation of Tehran [9]

Figuer 4: Spaces, Places, the Axes of Mob Gathering

According to the mentioned map, unsafe areas are located in the central places. The distance from the main axes, the presence of narrow and deadlock spaces, the presence of ruined homes, and the presence of manufacturing and workshop places that results in the reduction of general monitoring, have had a big role in the presence of insecure spaces in the district.

The end of secondary and deadlock passages, is the most insecure place for the residents. Buying and selling and exchanging of drugs are the most important social disorders occurs in these places. Respectively, Warehouses and production Workshops, dilapidated buildings, single and labor settlements are other insecure places. Using drugs, maintenance of stolen properties, gathering of mobs and corruption The most important socio-cultural anomalies that occur in these places. The picture number 5 shows the places of exchanging and using drugs. According to the picture, exchanging and distribution of drug occur on the fundamental axes(The commercial and economic exchanges of the district) and in the internal axes of the district, which include productive workshops, warehouses and dilapidated residential buildings, the lack of social monitoring and lack secure places for offenders results in using drugs.



Source: Renovation of Tehran [9]

**Figure 5: Homogeneous Areas in Terms of Distribution and Drug Abuse**

Generally, it can be said that the insecure places of the district include:

- The end of secondary and deadlock passages
- Dilapidated buildings
- Warehouses and productive workshops
- Dormitories, single and labor settlements
- Buildings under the construction
- Shoemakers street( the fundamental axes)

## DISCUSSION

The increase in the number of crimes and social disorders in the urban districts, and the lack of attention of designers for decreasing crimes and social disorders results in a new approach in designing called CPTED principle.

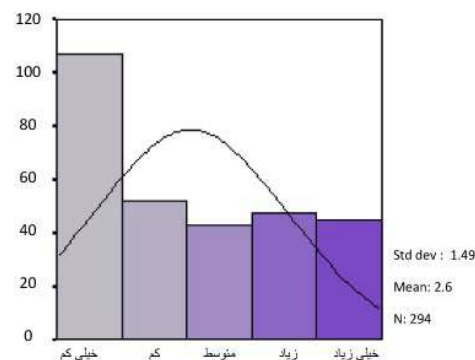
By identifying areas in the city which is prone to crime and physical causes, the spaces which encourages the crimes and social disorders should be prevented. Then, by considering about the crimes, social disorders and physical analysis of urban constructions, the insecure places can be graded physically, and appropriate strategies in terms of designing can be stated. Then, policies in respect to this strategy is considered. Finally, in regard to the strategies, some policies and examinations has been carried out in order to design a secure place in the district.

After threatening the population and primary distribution of questionnaires about the research, The questionnaire has been corrected and distributed in the number of 300. The gender proportion is 30% men and 70% women. Then, the

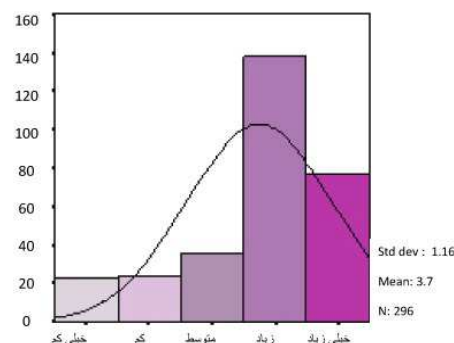
obtained raw data has been classified and analyzed by Excel and Spss software. Then, the analytical and descriptive results were divided on the basis of topics. The strategies carried out for them is presented (in the form of charts).

By the results of analytical and descriptive questionnaires, we reach to the proving of the main hypothesis of this study, which is comparing the security of women in different parts of the studied area and measuring the walking security of women by physical and mental components( Elements of flooring the passages, the possibility of collision due to the congestion, the riding(like motorbikes) on the pavements, the kind of people walking there, and the presence of undecided people with inappropriate behavior in the environment) and examination of relevant elements.

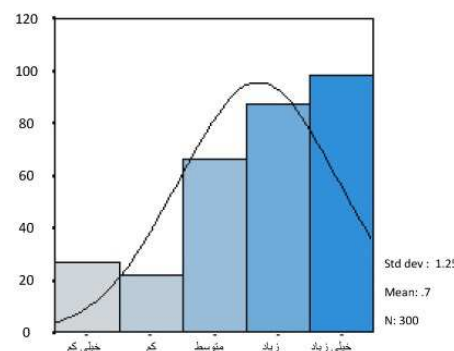
On the below, some of the result of questionnaires is presented by the chart.



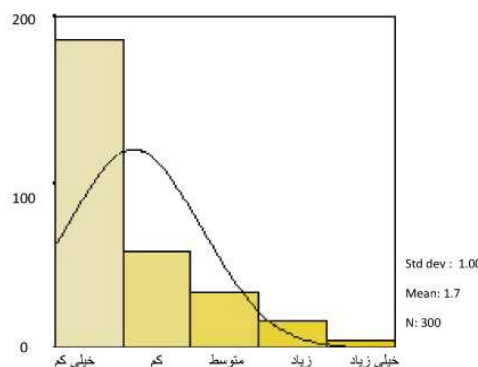
**Figuer 6: The Frequency of Responses for the Effectiveness of Components  
“Bad Flooring of the Passages and the Probability of Falling”**



**Figuer 6: The Frequency of Responses for the Effectiveness of Components  
“Riding on the Pavements”**



**Figure 7: “The Frequency of Responses for the Effectiveness of Components”**



**Figure 8: The Examination of the Readability of the Environment**

## CONCLUSIONS

According to analytical and descriptive results of the questionnaires, two main hypothesis had been proved. This means that when the level of attraction, the variety of uses, and urban activities increases in a public space, the amount security will increase too.

Then, the amount of security of women in different places of the studied and compared districts (that the analytical result shows) is the average of security in the residential sector is equal to 3.09 and is normal. Security in the commercial and mixed sectors are low and respectively is equal to 2.1 and 2.4. In the warehouses and productive workshops and fundamental axes of working the level of security is very low and is equal to 1.9. Actually, the most high level of security (after the sectors with users which are mostly administrative) relates to residential sectors.

The results from the questionnaires indicate two subject of examining the walking security for women by elements like flooring the passages, the probability of collision due to the Congestion, riding( like motorbikes) on the pavements, the kind of people walking on the place, and the presence of undecided people and with inappropriate behaviors in the pavement. The last two relates to subjective security during walking, and the first three relates to physical security. the results show that subjective elements are have more effect than objective elements.

Examination of the elements related to readability( obtained from questionnaires) shows that the environment under investigation is very readable and has a lot of clues. It also has suitable appearance and identities. So, in designing the district under investigation the clues, historical places with their values should be taken into account, and the present situation of the district should remain unchanged.

Finally, by the examination which was done for designing and creating a secure place. Some strategies and policies has been carried out. These strategies and policies is presented in the table number 1.

**Table 1: Suggested Strategies and Policies for Creating a Secure Place in the District under Investigation**

Policies	strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating readability in the on the road by using signals and signs for information</li> <li>Easy navigation by using, signs, signals and indexes</li> <li>Creating an appropriate parking</li> <li>Avoiding the creation of low-traffic corner, dim and without social control</li> <li>Appropriate lighting paths</li> <li>Creating suitable walking, and riding bikes paths</li> </ul>	Creating suitable accessibility and transportation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imitating the path of riders and the sovereignty of the walker on the entire space</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating suitable users</li> <li>Deleting the heterogeneous users in the space</li> <li>Converting all the warehouses into the residential users, and rehabilitation of study</li> <li>The destruction, removal or improvement of buildings, nad vulnerable buildings against crimes</li> <li>The preservation of historical buildings and using them to create a favorable location</li> <li>Coordination and performance of forms in buildings</li> <li>Removing hidden corners and angles in space</li> </ul>	Creating an appropriate space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper design and placement of buildings and spaces for creating active wall, especially after the dark</li> <li>Removing inactive views and corners</li> <li>Standards for appropriate brightness in the space should be taken into account</li> <li>In the case of using plants ,they should not reduce the amount of monitoring and observation</li> <li>The use of transparent and visible materials from the surrounding(such as glass) for the body of bus stations in order to develop the sense of having been seen in the passengers and increase their security as well as increase the focus of light in the environment</li> <li>Installation of security cameras on the district and declaration and annunciation for their presence, and the space should be under the control by using urban signs and clues and taking into account the aesthetic principles.</li> <li>Creating kiosks for the attraction of more people to that area and increase the presences of families</li> </ul>	Increasing the monitoring on the space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creating Clear distinction between public space and semi-public / semi-private and private</li> <li>on the places in which the use of fences are not appropriate, by creating some borders between public , semi-public / semi-private and private places. It can be done by the use of plants, changing the color of pavements and surfaces in order for people to react by seeing them.</li> <li>Creating identification in the space</li> <li>The use of colored codes in the district and spaces</li> <li>Providing the coordination of people for reducing disorders</li> </ul>	Increasing the sense of ownership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of religious users(mosques) in vulnerable areas</li> <li>Creating suitable and compatible mixed users</li> <li>Removal of different users in a place that is inactive in long hours of the day and night</li> <li>Creating some small parks with the same performance of residential sects for increasing regional security, and the use of “street games” in residential areas to increase environmental security with the help of playgrounds in this section in order not to bother residents and also have the possibility of monitoring from the residential sectors.</li> <li>Developing users with cultural performances Such as bookstores and cultural-artistic products of Tehran,</li> </ul>	The amount of reasonable activities

according to the study area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An appropriate system of application in order to create an appropriate location with the proper functioning</li> <li>• Using shopkeepers and residents in the area who had a big role in the management</li> <li>• Maintenance for the urban and spaces furniture</li> <li>• Removal of the signs and signals of the irregularities in the space, such as broken glass, damaged vehicles and cars</li> <li>• The use of organizer figures such as polices and watchmans</li> <li>• Preventing the presence of evil people or disruptive features for the security of the environment, such as beggars, the unemployed and undecided population in urban public spaces</li> </ul>	Management and protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of urban furniture on appropriate and necessary places</li> <li>• The use of readable signs and signals in the space</li> <li>• Use the trash periodically in the space</li> <li>• The use of suitable lighting equipment with respect to the conditions of space, in order to improve the monitoring of proper vision in space</li> <li>• The use of vegetation to separate spaces and increase ownership</li> </ul>	Creating urban suitable furnitures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the number of public phones in the studied streets , particularly Khayyam Street</li> <li>• Lighting phones and equip them with immediate relief button</li> </ul>	Increasing the availability of relief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and control of graffito and any sabotage act, and covering the walls with paintings and colors and helping to create a relaxing environment without disturbing (especially in space with high traffic)</li> <li>• The lights for pedestrians and pedestrians with a cane, wheelchair, pram and all those who are moving in a slower pace than usual should be taken into account</li> <li>• Physical barriers along the sidewalk of the street to avoid the parked cars and motorcycles in the pedestrian area</li> <li>• The use of sparse and secure vegetation and fountains in the design of public spaces</li> <li>• Eliminating areas prone to crimes and places with talented crimes by activating spaces.</li> <li>• Creating associated spaces by the presence, concentration, pause and dialogue which can help to increase security</li> <li>• Using the he mosque as a center of cultural activities after the ritual prayers, in order to stay active and reduce the activities of crimes</li> <li>• Improving the impalpable monitoring of the space in the suspected traffics to attract more women and children</li> <li>• Increasing the patrols of the police at noon and hours of solitude</li> </ul>	Increasing the security of walking spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecasting the kiosks for the selling of newspapers, tickets, and food on the streets in order to control the space and increase prosperity and night lighting environment.</li> </ul>	Increasing the amount of tendencies for using overnight spases

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating commercial applications with catering services and opening at nights to encourage pedestrians to walk in the street, and to maintain security, and overnight lighting especially on the streets</li> <li>• Creating day and night users for maintain lighting places such as pharmacies, clinics and the police boarding in the night</li> <li>• Prediction of public toilets for women and children around bus terminals, and providing security and lighting for them after the dark</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposing activities consistent to the spirit of women for example, the use of activities such as establishing kindergartens and children's playground, amphitheater, mobile exhibitions of handicrafts, food and household plants and like that</li> </ul>	Maintaining justice of the space and the prevention of gender domination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of urban furniture consistent with the taste of people, and compatible the historical profile of the study area to increase comfort and familiarity factors of the space</li> <li>• The use of additional elements familiar to people in order to develop the familiarity of the space and prevent from the creation of homesickness and the fear of it</li> </ul>	Increasing familiarity and reputation of the environment

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